



March 27, 2006

National Organics Standards Board

c/o Valerie Frances
Room 4008 – South Building
1400 and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20230-0001

Re: Final Report

Dear Ms. Frances,

Our company farms oysters Louisiana and we have been interested in developing organic standards for shellfish for sometime. Needless to say we were greatly disappointed by the final report put out by the Aquaculture Working Group of the NOSB. It completely failed to address molluscan shellfish issues.

Because various committees and task forces appointed by the National Organics Standards Board over the years have always consisted of mostly finfish experts the discussions have centered on issues such as feed and other topics that have little or no relevance to the raising of oysters. Discussions specific to molluscan shellfish have not been seriously considered. Your most recent report shows no improvement.

In the meantime, organic standards for shellfish have been developed in other countries, and these shellfish are now being marketed as organic in the U.S. This means we can't compete in one the fastest growing markets in the world.

In the interest of furthering the development of standards that will be applicable to molluscan shellfish in a timely fashion, we are requesting that the National Organic Standards Board, or the USDA itself, appoint a Molluscan Shellfish Organic Standards Development Task Force. This Task Force should be made up of shellfish experts from academia, shellfish industry members, and organic standards experts, for the purpose of developing a set of organic certification standards specific to molluscan shellfish that will comply with the National Organics Program standards and allow our domestic producers to compete in this growing niche market.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mike Voisin

